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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/633,747	08/04/2003	Hiroyuki Oka	5258-000016	5355
27572	7590	04/05/2004	EXAMINER	
HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C. P.O. BOX 828 BLOOMFIELD HILLS, MI 48303				LUEBKE, RENEE S
		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
		2833		

DATE MAILED: 04/05/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/633,747	OKA
	Examiner Renee S. Luebke	Art Unit 2833

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-4 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 2-4 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>4/8/03</u> .	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____.

1. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

2. The examiner would appreciate a copy of the Japanese application mentioned on page 2 of the present specification.

3. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

- Contrary to the description of fig. 1 on page 6, this figure does not show “a female connector housing.” Some of the other figures are similarly misdescribed.
- On line 2 of paragraph 38, “real” should apparently be changed to –rear–.
- Contrary to line 2 of paragraph 39, and other places, the female connector housing 20 is not “on” the hood part 11; it is **in** the hood part.
- Paragraph 46 is unclear.

Appropriate corrections are required.

4. Claims 1-4 are objected to because of the following informalities:

- A pair of housings cannot fit “on each other” as required by line 1 of claim 1. One housing is on, or in, the other.
- It appears that the comma on line 4 of claim 1 should be removed.
- Claim 1 lacks antecedent basis for “its original state” on lines 5-6 and “said normal fit-on state” on line 9.
- It appears that line 16 of claim 1 should begin with -whereby-, or something similar.
- Claim 2 lacks antecedent basis for “said elastic arms” on line 2.
- The section of claim 2 on lines 4-7 appears to be missing text.
- The claims are generally written in a confusing manner including non-standard grammar and idiom.

Appropriate corrections are required.

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

6. Claim 1, as best understood, is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Wilber, et al. This connector comprises a connector housing with a locking arm 62 deformable by contact with a locking arm contact portion 70 on a mating housing 11, and a fit-on detection member 12 including an elastic arm 24. It operates as claimed.

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Noguchi, et al. and Kurimoto also comprise fit-on detection members that are similar to that of the present invention.

8. Claims 2-4 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, and overcoming the objections enumerated above.

9. Any response to this action may be mailed to:

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
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or faxed to:

(703) 872-9306.

10. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through

Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication from the examiner should be directed to Mrs. Renee Luebke whose telephone number is (571) 272-2009.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mrs. Paula Bradley, can be reached at (571) 272-2800, extension 33.



Renee S. Luebke
Primary Patent Examiner
March 31, 2004